



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities & California

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in California received \$47 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and California Humanities for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples of projects since 2006.*

- The **Mark Twain Papers Project** at the University of California, Berkeley, has given birth to one of the great surprise best-sellers of recent times, but work on this 26-volume edition has been under way for decades, supported by many grants, three in this period totaling \$1.2 million.
- The **Martin Luther King Papers** project has received two grants in this period for editing and publication, totaling \$429,000. The relevant volumes range in subject from the Freedom Rides (volume seven:1961–62) to the march on Washington (volume eight:1963) and the passage of the Civil Rights Act (volume nine:1964).
- Over two summers, fifty K–12 teachers have attended summer institutes on the **life and writings of John Steinbeck**, more recently at San Jose State University, with funding from two separate grants totaling \$257,400.
- The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, recently accepted a donation of the **San Francisco Examiner's photographic archive** from 1919 to 1998, including 3.6 million negatives and over one million prints, a collection so large it doubled the library's holdings. To help preserve, arrange, and describe 180,000 images, the university has received two grants totaling \$419,000.
- Over four summers, sixty-two high-school teachers attended six-week seminars on the **Political Theory of Hannah Arendt** at San Diego State University to study her writings on evil, terror, and the origins of totalitarianism. The project was supported by four grants totaling \$577,000.
- Legal historian Stuart Banner at UCLA received a \$50,000 research grant to support a study of the **history of property in the United States** from 1770 to the digital age, in which property rights have been extended to genetic material and digital music files.
- **The University of California Press**, one of the largest and most respected scholarly presses in the country, releases 180 new books and fifty journals annually. It raised \$1.2 million to match a \$400,000 challenge grant to endow its future publications in history (including that of the western United States), literature, and film studies.
- *Hollywood Chinese*, an award-winning documentary about **Chinese contributors to American filmmaking** and the image of the Chinese people in American film, was supported by a grant from California Humanities.
- **We Are California**, a program of California Humanities, is a website for reading about state and pre-state history stretching back to the 1500s. Visitors are invited to contribute their own stories of immigration and settlement.
- The Center for Media Change received a \$15,000 grant from California Humanities to support a series of **short radio documentaries** on how economic shifts and cultural trends are remaking the face and idea of the small rural town.



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# Humanities Nationwide

*NEH supports programs and projects that contribute directly and dramatically to the cultural life and historical perspective of tens of millions of Americans. Here are a few examples.*

## **PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY**

Nothing captures the character of a community or the spirit of an era better than its newspapers. *Chronicling America*, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, is digitizing millions of pages taken from newspapers dating back to the early Republic, making it possible to search the pages online for any word or phrase—at no charge.

## **AMERICAN VOICES**

The papers of prominent Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and NEH funds many projects to assemble and preserve them, including complete sets of collected papers for ten presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Eisenhower as well as public figures such as Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King Jr., George Marshall, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain.

## **SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK**

Over the past forty-five years, scholars supported by Endowment grants have produced more than 7,000 books—including numerous classics such as Dumas Malone's *Jefferson and His Time*, James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and Louis Menand's *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*—that have garnered scores of awards, including eighteen Pulitzer Prizes.

## **PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS**

NEH investments in the digital humanities make it possible for a student to walk the corridors of the Temple of Karnak in ancient Egypt in virtual 3-D, or to visit the 1964–65 World's Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging has been used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone's previously unreadable field diary.

## **GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT**

Almost \$2 billion in humanities support has been generated by the Challenge Grants program, which requires recipients to raise \$3 or \$4 in outside funds for every federal dollar they receive.

## **HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN**

NEH-supported films, grounded in scholarly research, bring history alive. For example, twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns's seven-part *The War* (2007), and ten million saw *The Abolitionists* (2013). NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as “King Tut” that make the wonders and heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reach classrooms across the country.

## **KEEPING TEACHERS UP-TO-DATE**

Seminars, institutes, and workshops give teachers the opportunity to refresh and deepen their knowledge about the humanities through intense study. In the past three years, more than 2,100 college teachers and 7,500 schoolteachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, to the benefit of more than one million students.

## **REACHING ACROSS THE NATION**

Last year, state humanities councils, NEH's affiliates in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories put on 16,800 reading and discussion programs, 6,500 literacy programs, 4,000 speakers bureau presentations, 5,400 conferences, 1,750 Chautauqua events, 24,000 media programs, and 7,300 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 2,300 exhibitions.